



# 2024 | 2025 **ANNUAL REPORT**





**Purpose:** The Foundation's Purpose is to support Riverview Health Centre Inc. in its efforts to improve the quality of life for residents and patients in its care.

## 2024-2025 AT A GLANCE

Total dollars raised:

**\$2,387,462**

Number of donations:

**2,457**

Number of donors:

**1,862**

## Board of Directors

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# Message from the Board Chair & Executive Director

As we reflect on the past year at Riverview Health Centre Foundation, we are filled with immense pride and deep gratitude. Together, with our generous donors, committed volunteers, dedicated staff, and compassionate community, we achieved a remarkable year of growth, impact, and connection.

In 2024/2025, we witnessed the power of community come to life. Through the Foundation's signature events including Cycle on Life, Bocce Ball and Laughs & Libations, our generous donors helped raise over \$220,000 in support of Riverview Health Centre. These funds directly enhanced patient and resident care, supported therapeutic recreation and music therapy, and enabled the purchase of essential equipment across RHC programs. Each event was not only a financial success, but a celebration of compassion, connection, and commitment to our purpose.

Thanks to your support, we continued to invest in specialized areas such as the Alzheimer's Centre of Excellence, palliative care, stroke rehabilitation, and long-term care, ensuring that dignity, comfort, and compassion remain at the heart of everything we do.

As we look ahead to 2025/2026, we're excited to continue building on the meaningful work already underway. With a growing team and renewed energy, the Foundation remains focused on supporting the vital programs and priorities of Riverview Health Centre. From enhancing quality of life for patients and residents to helping fund new and ongoing initiatives across the Centre, our goal is to ensure that every dollar raised makes a real difference.

We're also looking forward to deepening our relationships with donors and finding new ways to connect, share impact, and celebrate the community that makes this work possible. Together, we'll continue to champion compassionate care and create opportunities for generosity that truly reflect the heart of Riverview.

At its core, Riverview Health Centre is a place of care, comfort, and resilience and none of this would be possible without the generosity of individuals like you. Thank you for supporting us, believing in our mission, and helping us build a future where every patient and resident feels supported, valued, and cared for.

With sincere gratitude,



**GORDON MILES**

Chair, Board of Directors



**STEPHANIE BEVACQUA**

Executive Director

# Impact Stories

## A soundtrack for care

### *Music therapy deepens connections and lifts spirits at Riverview Health Centre*

When a gentle voice and the sound of a guitar drifted down the halls of Riverview Health Centre, people stopped to listen. Conversations quieted. This was the sound of something new: personalized, therapeutic care brought to life through music therapy intern Logan Puhach.

With the support of the Riverview Health Centre Foundation, Puhach, a student from the Canadian Mennonite University, was able to provide approximately 470 sessions with 82 unique clients during his 7-month stint at Riverview starting in late 2023.

“He has a confident and winsome manner that puts patients at ease,” said Jan Sellick, a nurse in

3 East, about Puhach. “He is gently cheerful and several patients have spoken to me about how they look forward to his visits. Having something meaningful and life-giving to look forward to for patients in a palliative situation is priceless.”

From intimate bedside visits to group sing-alongs, the sessions were customized and deeply personal.





Case in point, Puhach shares the story of one resident who initially seemed withdrawn and unresponsive to his presence, but soon began to wiggle her feet and nod her head to the beat of the music. Over time, her voice and laughter returned.

*“Now, we sing along together, she tells jokes and stories and shares memories prompted by song lyrics,” said Puhach.*

All of the musician’s Riverview visits offered something unique: the chance to sing a favourite childhood song, explore memories, or simply relax in the comfort of familiar melodies. Some residents participated once or twice. Others, as many as 50 times. For families and staff, these musical moments were a reminder of how important and powerful human connection is when it comes to caregiving.

“He is sensitive in his approach, knowing how to ‘read the room’ with a perceptiveness beyond his years,” Sellick added. “When many are struggling with a sense of loss of who they are, hearing a favourite piece of music connects them with their life as a whole. One patient summed it up as ‘being seen.’”

When Puhach’s practicum ended, the response from the Riverview community was immediate. Families wrote letters, staff shared reflections, and many expressed hope that the program would continue.

*“My experience here at Riverview has been nothing short of phenomenal,” Puhach said. Adding that it was his hope that others “will have gotten a sense of how impactful it has been, both for me and the people that I have been working with.”*

Recognizing the impact, the Riverview Health Centre Foundation is working hard to ensure continued support of this important initiative and to fund a dedicated music therapist ensuring these powerful musical connections can continue.



## An upgrade in comfort

### ***Donor-funded recliners support patients and families alike***

At Riverview Health Centre comfort is essential, especially for residents living with advanced respiratory conditions or nearing the end of life.

And, until recently, many resident rooms lacked seating that was both safe and comfortable. In 2 West, older wingback chairs had become difficult to use and posed safety concerns, while 3 East's recliners, though well used, were aging and in need of replacement.

Thanks to donor support through the Riverview Health Centre Foundation, 28 new recliners were purchased, one for every room in 2 West. Additional funding allowed 3 East to replace recliners in the palliative care unit.

The new chairs recline fully, are easy to clean, and offer comfort for both residents and visiting family members, including those keeping vigil overnight.

"These chairs are in use daily, and in some instances 24 hours a day," said Jodi Dusik-Sharpe, patient care manager in 3 East.



**Before**

**After**

*"They are utilized by both patients and families, and the multi-position feature, including reclining to a sleeping position, provides symptom management relief for patients with cardio-respiratory burden, as well as a comfortable sleeping option for families at their loved one's bedside through the night."*

With donor support, comfort and care now extend to more rooms and more families.







## A courtyard that feels like home

***Residents and donors come together to create welcoming outdoor gathering space***

Riverview's refreshed courtyard began with a strong idea from the Resident Council: Let's create a space where residents and families can comfortably gather, relax, and enjoy the outdoors. In other words, a space that feels like home.

Thanks to financial support from the generous donors of Riverview Health Centre Foundation, and helpful input from residents, families, and staff, that vision became a reality in 2024 with the completion of phase one of a major courtyard upgrade.

The \$42,000 project added accessible rockers, loungers, and shaded seating areas designed for both private reflection and social gatherings.

"The colourful new outdoor furniture for the Courtyard has helped create wonderful experiences for the people we serve," said Kathleen Klaasen, CEO of Riverview Health Centre. "When the weather allows, it is used daily by residents and others we care for, and their families and friends, welcoming meals, conversations, and celebrations.

*"It is particularly meaningful that this gift from the RHC Foundation came about as a result of a request from the residents themselves, empowering them to effect meaningful enhancements to the place they call home."*

A peek into the courtyard is all that's required to know the transformation has had an impact on the Riverview community. The new-look space has become a popular place to gather, with one recent highlight being an ice cream social that drew a crowd of delighted residents and guests.

"The courtyard is a beautiful place to be," confirms Andre Hall-Grusska, President of the Resident Council, "Finally, restful and peaceful."



# A cart full of choices... and fun!

## *New initiative brings snacks and smiles to residents*

Thanks to support from the Riverview Health Centre Foundation and its donors, a new Beverage Cart is rolling through Riverview offering snacks, drinks, and something even more meaningful: choice.

Launched in March 2025 with a festive St. Patrick's Day-themed trial run, the decked-out beverage cart was an instant hit with residents and staff. Stocked with coffee, tea, soda, and treats, it gave residents the opportunity to choose what they wanted, when they wanted it, something not always possible in traditional care settings.

*"When residents are offered something as simple as a favourite drink or a snack, on their own schedule, it reinforces their autonomy and dignity," said Kathleen Klaasen, CEO of Riverview Health Centre. "That's what person-directed care is all about."*

The cart has already featured special offerings like a beer tasting event, and according to Klaasen, mocktails (non-alcoholic cocktails) are proving to be quite popular. She says these fun, personalized options help shift the experience from institutional to something that might be experienced out and about.

Volunteers, student nurses, and residents, with support from the Foundation, worked together to bring the cart to life and plans are already in place to expand the beverage cart service in the months ahead.



# Signature Events

## Cycle on Life

On June 9, 2024, 180 cyclists came together to ride and raise funds in support of compassionate, specialized care at Riverview Health Centre. Thanks to their efforts and the generosity of our donors, volunteers, and community partners, we raised over **\$100,000** to enhance programs and services that improve quality of life for our patients and residents.



Riders selected from three scenic routes: 65 km, 20 km, or 5 km. Whether it was an enthusiastic first-time participant or a long-time supporter returning for another ride, every pedal stroke made an impact. Through peer-to-peer fundraising and community spirit, each rider played a vital role in strengthening the care delivered at Riverview.

The day's success would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers and the generous support of our sponsors:

- **Tour de Friend Sponsor:** Manitoba Public Insurance
- **Start/Finish Line Sponsor:** KGS Group
- **Half-Way Rest Stop Sponsor:** Neil Bardal Funeral Centre
- **Pedal Pusher Sponsors:** Manitoba Blue Cross, Crosier Kilgour, Tom Powell Design, and KPMG
- **Kid's Activity Sponsor:** The Gail Asper Family Foundation
- **Music Sponsor:** Wellington-Altus Private Wealth

Cycle on Life 2024 was more than a fundraising event, it was a celebration of community in motion. Every kilometer ridden, every dollar raised, and every moment shared helped advance care at Riverview.

**Thank you for being part of it.**







## Bocce Ball

In August, Bocce teams gathered on the green at Riverview Health Centre for an afternoon of fun, friendly competition, and meaningful impact, all in support of Riverview Health Centre Foundation.



The event brought together community members, local businesses, and dedicated volunteers, all rolling in support of Riverview Health Centre. From enthusiastic first-timers to seasoned players, the lawn was alive with energy and goodwill.

A special congratulations goes to **Team Bocce Soks**, who swept the tournament with five straight wins, and to **Team Prairie Architects** for a strong second-place finish!

Thanks to the generosity of our participants, sponsors, and donors, the funds raised from Bocce Ball helped to purchase specialized equipment, put on therapeutic recreation programming (like art therapy and summer carnivals) and much more.

This event would not have been possible without the commitment of our volunteers, the enthusiasm of our players and the generosity of our many supporters.

### Thank You to Our Sponsors

- **Sponsors:** Birchwood, 201 Portage, Anderson Orthopedics, Steinbach Credit Union, Wolf from Engineering, KGS Group, MMP Architects, Wallace & Wallace Fencing
- **Safe Ride Home Sponsor:** Nortech Parking Systems
- **Music Sponsor:** Prairie Architects
- **Food & Beverage Sponsors:** Mona Lisa Ristorante, GJ Andrews Food & Wine Shoppe, Aqua Vitae, Torque Brewing
- **Prize Donors:** Esdale Printing, Pam Greenlay, Bell Media, MMP Architects, KGS Group, The Keg Steakhouse, Salisbury House, Reliance Outdoor Products

Thank you for helping us roll purpose, joy, and care into every match. We look forward to welcoming you back next summer.



# Laughs & Libations

This year's Laughs & Libations brought together community, compassion, and comedy in support of Riverview Health



Centre Foundation—and delivered incredible results. Held in support of long-term and palliative care residents in our 2 West Community, the event raised over **\$100,000**, with a spotlight on a deeply meaningful Fund the Need initiative.

The 2024 Fund the Need appeal raised over \$66,000 to purchase 28 specialized recliners to replace outdated wingback chairs in residents' rooms. Many individuals in 2 West live with chronic respiratory conditions and experience fatigue, fluid retention, and limited mobility. The low-set wingback chairs no longer met the needs of the residents, and we needed to replace these items to restore dignity, support independence, and reduce the risk of pressure injuries. These new recliners allowed residents to rest safely in an upright position. They offer a vital alternative to resting in bed and help promote both physical well-being and emotional comfort.

Beloved comedian and longtime Riverview supporter Big Daddy Tazz introduced the Fund the Need appeal, blending humour with heartfelt

purpose. In just a few moments, guests raised over \$40,000 toward this essential project.

The evening was filled with warmth and joy, from being greeted by a whimsical Charlie Chaplin impersonator to enjoying a beautifully designed venue and standout performances by comedians Jared Story, Big Daddy Tazz, and Matt Falk.

We are deeply grateful to the generous sponsors who helped make this evening possible.

## ***Special thanks to:***

- **Wine Sponsor**, Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries;
- **Gold Sponsors**, Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg and Superior Asphalt Paving Co. Ltd.;
- **Reception Sponsors**, The Asper Foundation and Harris Realty Group;
- **Silver Sponsors**, Johnson Group, Qualico, The Floor Show, Sun West Screen Graphics, Ainsworth Inc., Payworks, P.M. Group and Maple Leaf Construction.

Behind the scenes, Laughs & Libations was powered by the dedication of our event committee, volunteers, and staff, and made possible by the generosity of our sponsors, donors, and our Guest of Honour, Kristie Pearson. Together, we created an unforgettable evening and delivered meaningful change for those who call Riverview home.





# Your Gifts at Work – Where we invested



- Specialized Care, **\$33,452**
- Alzheimers Care & Projects, **\$43,955**
- Community Care, **\$15,103**
- Research Projects, **\$123,424**
- Personal Care Communities, **\$59,531**
- Palliative Health Investments, **\$52,423**
- Capital Projects, **\$1,295,752**





**RIVERVIEW**  
**HEALTH CENTRE**  
FOUNDATION

1 Morley Avenue  
Winnipeg MB R3L 2P4

**P. 204.478.6197**

**[rhcf.mb.ca](http://rhcf.mb.ca)**